

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 5159

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DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XA

SUBJ: SADAT ON AFRICA

1. AFTER OUR TALK ON SADAT'S UPCOMING VISIT TO THE US REPORTED SEPTTEL, I ASKED IF HE HAD ANYTHING ELSE THAT HE WISHED ME TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON. SAYING HE DID, SADAT THEN PROCEEDED TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. HE TERMED MUBUTO A "DEAR FRIEND" AND SADI MUBUTO HAD SENT HIM ALL OF THE DETAILS OF THE KANTANGA FIGHTING. RECALLING THE ANGOLA SITUATION, SADAT NOTED THAT MUBUTO HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE ANGOLANS HAD SENT T54 AND T55 TANKS INTO KANTANGA FOR THE KANTANGAN REBELS. SADAT WONDERED FROM WHERE SUCH SOPHISTICATED ARMS HAD COME. THESE ARE NOT THE ORDINARY WEAPONS THAT ONE WOULD EXPECT THE KANTANGANS TO HAVE.

2. SADAT INDICATED HIS CONCERN THAT THE SAME KIND OF THING MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE SUDAN. THE SOVIETS, HE NOTED, ARE WORKING TOGETHER WITH QADHAFI IN ETHIOPIA. THEY ARE ARMING THE FANATIC ANSAR, WHOSE CAMPS ARE CLOSE TO THE SUDANESE BORDERS. THE SOVIETS ARE REPEATING

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WHAT THEY DID IN ANGOLA, THIS TIME USING MENGISTU. QADHAFI IS PROVIDING THE MONEY FOR SOVIET ARMS BEING SENT INTO EGHIOPIA FOR THE USE OF THE ANSAR.

3. SADAT NOTED THAT, IF THE SITUATION CONTINUES, HE WILL BE FACED WITH A PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WILL NOT STAND BY WITH FOLDED ARMS. INSTEAD HE WILL FIGHT TO

PREVENT THEM. HE HAD MADE THIS CLEAR TO BOKASSA, TO NUMEIRI AND TO ALL OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. EGYPT CANNOT TOLERATE A SOVIET OR LEFTIST DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IN THE SUDAN. IT IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF SAVING NUMERI, BUT OF ASSURING EGYPT'S VITAL WATER SUPPLY.

4. REVERTING TO ZAIRE, SADAT DEPLORED THE LACK OF SUBSTANTIAL USG HELP TO NUBOTO. HE RECOGNIZED THIS RESULTS FROM WHAT HEA CALLED "NAGGING FROM THE CONGRESS." HE HOPED NEVERTHELESS THAT THE USG WILL RECOGNIZE ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN AFRICA. PODGORNÝ'S CURRENT VISIT, HE STATED, MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS WILL GO ALL OUT IN AFRICA. SADAT SAID HE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE DID NOT WANT A SINGLE AMERICAN SOLDIER TO BE SENT TO AFRICA. IT IS A BATTLE FOR "US AFRICANS", BUT EGYPT NEEDS ARMS IN ORDER TO FIGHT THAT BATTLE.

5. SADAT CONTINUED THAT HE PLANS TO SEND SOME MILITARY HELP TO MUBUTO IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS. MOST RECENT REPORTS FROM ZAIRE INDICATE MUBUTO IS DOING WELL. AT SOME STAGE HOWEVER, SADAT THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE TO USE THE TU-16S HE HAS IN THE SUDAN FOR A "SYMBOLIC" BOMBING MISSION INTO ANGOLA OR KAMTANGA TO ASSIST MUBUTO. VP MABARAK INDICATED EGYPT NOW HAS FOUR SUCH TU-16S IN THE SUDAN. SADAT EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED TO USE THESE AIRCRAFT, BUT HAT A SITUATION MIGHT ARISE WHERE HE
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FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH HE WANTED US TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CONTINGENCY, HE ASKED THAT WE SAY NOTHING ABOUT IT.

6. COMMENT: GOE, FROM SADAT ON DOWN, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS AND HAVE LONG COMPLAINED THAT THE USG IS NOT GIVING ENOUGH ATTENTION AND SUPPORT TO PRO-WESTERN REGIMES IN AFRICA. THE SUDAN IS AN AREA OF VITAL INTEREST TO EGYPT AND SADAT HAS IN THE PAST MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES TO WHICH EGYPTIAN TROOPS WOULD BE SENT IF NEEDED TO BOLSTER THE NUMEIRI REGIME. SADAT'S IDEA OF DEPLOYING THE TU-16S FOR A "SYMBOLIC" BOMBING MISSION IN ANGOLA OR KAMTANGA HAS AROUSED WORRY ON THE PART OF SOME OF HIS ADVISERS. FAHMY, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS POINTED OUT THE LOGISTIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF ANY SUCH OPERATION AND IS DOING HIS UTMOST TO DISSUADE THE PRESIDENT FROM TAKING SUCH A DECISION. MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON HOW THINGS GO IN ZAIRE AND ON THE NATURE OF MUBUTO'S

FUTURE APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE.

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